2/17/99

One of the goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to maintain good water quality in the central Delta while at the same time being protective of fishery resources. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program believes a combination of the Delta-Cross Channel (DCC) and a new screened diversion facility at Hood are necessary components in achieving this goal.

Currently, the DCC is closed at different times of the year to keep salmon out of the interior Delta and in the Sacramento River where they have a better chance of survival as they move to the ocean. The closure of the DCC, depending on the time of the year, can impact water quality in the south fork of the Mokelumne, at Contra Costa's intake facility and at the State and Federal pumping plants. When the DCC is closed the draw of water comes across the Delta through Georgiana and Three Mile Sloughs and around the end of Sherman Island. Following this route, the water reaching the central Delta has a higher salinity than the water coming through the DCC.

A screened diversion on the Sacramento River near Hood could minimize water quality concerns associated with the DCC closures. However, such a facility could have a number of impacts on fishery resources such as:

- Expose young Sacramento River salmon as well as other species to a new fish screen;
- Block or impair upstream passage of migrating fish;
- Impair migrating cues by the addition of Sacramento River water;
- Entrain eggs and larvae of striped bass; and
- Entrain Delta smelt.
- **(Others?)**

In view of this conflict, the Program proposes to:

- Develop operational criteria for the DCC that balances flood control, water quality, water supply reliability and fisheries concerns;
- Evaluate whether a 2000 cfs screened diversion from the Sacramento River at Hood to the Mokelumne River can be constructed to improve or maintain central Delta water quality, without compromising fish protection achieved by operation of the DCC or creating adverse fishery impacts;
- Evaluate the implementation of setback levees and/or dredging along the Mokelumne River from Interstate 5 downstream to the San Joaquin River to improve conveyance and resolve flood concerns in the region. These actions would be carefully coordinated with ecosystem actions to create additional tidal wetlands and riparian habitat to assure that a balanced solution to local and regional concerns would be achieved; and
- Based on the above evaluations, take appropriate actions to provide a balanced solution to water quality, flood control, water supply reliability and fisheries concerns.

To address these potential actions in the draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, the Program will discuss the consequences of the following:in the draft Programmatic EIS/EIR

- A range of operation scenarios (full closure to CVPIA Delta action #6) for the DCC **(Mark/Gary is this right?)**;
- Construction of a 2000 to 4000 cfs screened diversion from the Sacramento River

at Hood. A range in the size of the diversion facility is being discussed because of the uncertainty of the diversion facility evaluation results. The upper end of the range (4000 cfs) was selected because preliminary evaluations based on professional judgement indicate that significant adverse impacts to fishery resources would occur if the diversion structure, in combination with current operation of the DCC, was greater than 4000 cfs in size. **(I'm hanging way out on this. Need someone with some background to confirm)**

- Construction of setback levees and/or dredging along the Mokelumne River from I-5 downstream to the San Joaquin River.